

I was relieving at the counter. Normally my work involved research for the touring organisation that employed me. The Christmas vacation was approaching and I, with several others from various branches of the organisation, had been detailed to assist those who were planning holiday tours. Some wanted advice on camping areas; some wanted ~~more~~ accommodation bookings, while some wanted advice on "where to go for a quiet rest".

this time The weather was hot and humid. It was one of those unusual days in Melbourne when the weather resembled that found along the north Queensland coast in summer ~~just~~ before the cooling rains fall. The counter was busy. Each lift that arrived at our floor disgorged more enquiring tourists in the making. As each visitor was attended to, ^{whatever} ~~whether~~ he asked for, there came to mind one query - "where to go for a quiet rest".

Long years ago my father, and indeed his father before him, had been a lighthouse keeper. Between them they had served at most lighthouses on the Victorian coast - Cape Nelson, Cape Otway, Wilsons Promontory, Clifty Island, and others. My brother, my sister and myself had also lived at these isolated settlements and grew to the age when it was necessary to go out into the world and find a job. There was a war on at the time and the Royal Australian Navy seemed to me to be allied with lighthouses and therefore attractive as a means of earning my living. Patriotism did not enter my head; all that I wanted to do was to "keep the wolf from the door". I due course the war ended and at that stage "Somewhere to go for a quiet rest" was what I needed.

At the Wilsons Promontory lighthouse it was, and still is, the practice to send from Melbourne once each three months the lighthouse steamer with heavy stores and, when necessary, a change of personnel. It was the steamer "Lady Loch" that provided this service then. Between visits of the "Loch" as she was familiarly known, a weekly supply of fresh meat, a pound or two of butter, a bag of mail and newspapers were brought from Melbourne by ~~one~~